

Message Text

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67

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FM AMEMBASSY BONN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8765

INFO AMEMBASSY BERLIN

USMISSION USBERLIN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

USMISSION NATO BRUSSELS

C O N F I D E N T I A L BONN 04451

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, GW, FR, UK

SUBJECT: FRENCH-GDR RELATIONS

REF: A) PARIS 5893; B) STATE 44049; C) PARIS 4077

SUMMARY; FRENCH REP IN MARCH 18 TRIPARTITE MEETING INFORMED US AND UK OF ITEMS CURRENTLY AT ISSUE BETWEEN FRENCH AND EAST GERMANS: A) ROAD TRANSPORT AGREEMENT; B) CONSULAR AGREEMENT; AND C) NUMBERS OF PERSONNEL TO BE ASSIGNED TO RESPECTIVE EMBASSIES. HE ALSO INFORMED US OF PARIS' INSTRUCTIONS TO THEIR EMBASSY TO GDR RE BERLIN AND QRR MATTERS. END SUMMARY.

1. ON ROAD TRANSPORT AGREEMENT (RTA) FRENCH REP SAID FRENCH-GDR NEGOTIATIONS HAD BEEN BROKEN OFF IN DECEMBER WHEN AGREEMENT COULD NOT BE REACHED ON LANGUAGE DESIRED BY FRENCH TO PROTECT BERLIN ACCESS RIGHTS. THE FRENCH WANT RATHER SPECIFIC RESERVATION, PROPOSING AT VARIOUS TIMES TO GDR (IN ORDER GIVEN):

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--A) A SPECIFIC REFERENCE IN ROAD TRANSPORT

AGREEMENT TO QUADRIPARTITE AGREEMENTS, DECISIONS, AND ARRANGEMENTS INCLUDING QA AND TTA;

--B) PHRASE ALONG LINES THE RTA WOULD NOT AFFECT INTERNATIONAL DECISIONS AND AGREEMENTS PREVIOUSLY MADE BY EITHER PARTY TO RTA REGARDING ROAD TRAFFIC; AND

--C) LANGUAGE ON LINES THAT RTA WOULD NOT AFFECT INTERNATIONAL AGREEMENTS, RESPONSIBILITIES, OR OBLIGATIONS ASSUMED PREVIOUSLY BY EITHER CONTRACTING PARTY. GDR REFUSED ALL FRENCH PROPOSALS, COUNTERPROPOSING ONLY THAT PARIS AGREE TO FORMULA AGREED BY UK (UK-GDR RTA, SIGNED BUT APPARENTLY NOT RATIFIED ACCORDING TO UK REPS, CONTAINS PHRASE ON LINES THAT RTA SHALL NOT AFFECT OTHER INTERNATIONAL AGREEMENTS PREVIOUSLY ENTERED INTO BY EITHER PARTY). GDR, WITH RESPECT TO FRENCH PROPOSAL GIVEN AT 'B' ABOVE, DID SAY THEY COULD AGREE TO UNILATERAL FRENCH STATEMENT IN CONNECTION WITH RTA THAT THE INTERNATIONAL AGREEMENTS REFERRED TO WERE QUADRIPARTITE ONES RELATING TO ROAD TRAFFIC. THE FRENCH REFUSED. FRENCH REP SAID PARIS HAS NOT YET DECIDED WHAT NEXT STEP WOULD BE ON RTA.

2. ON CONSULAR AGREEMENT, FRENCH REP CONFIRMED THAT GDR HAD PASSED IN NOVEMBER A DRAFT AGREEMENT. NATIONALITY DEFINITION CLAUSE IS VIRTUALLY SAME AS THAT IN GDR DRAFT PASSED US. NO FRENCH RESPONSE OR COUNTERDRAFT HAS YET BEEN MADE, BUT FRENCH REP SAID HE EXPECTED THIS TO OCCUR SOON. FRENCH POSITION, HE SAID, IS THAT DEFINITION OF NATIONALITY COULD AFFECT CONCEPT OF "GERMANY AS A WHOLE" AND FRENCH WOULD REJECT SUCH INCLUSION. HE ADDED THAT FRANCE HAS NATIONALITY DEFINITION IN ONLY SIX OF ITS CONSULAR CONVENTIONS: WITH UK BECAUSE THAT IS LATTER'S PRACTICE, AND WITH FIVE FORMER FRENCH COLONIES WITH SIZEABLE FRENCH POPULATIONS.

3. REGARDING NUMBERS OF STAFF IN RESPECTIVE EMBASSIES, FRENCH REP SAID GDR IS PROPOSING 25 DIPLOMATS AND 30 OTHERS. HE INDICATED THAT THESE NUMBERS WERE CONSIDERED EXCESSIVE BY PARIS.

4. FRENCH REP SAID THAT FRG HAD BEEN IN CONTACT WITH
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FRENCH ON MATTERS REPORTED ABOVE BUT FRENCH HAVE PROVIDED FRG WITH NO INFORMATION.

5. FRENCH REP ADDED THAT PARIS HAS INSTRUCTED FRENCH EMBASSY TO GDR VERY EXPLICITLY THAT BERLIN AND QRR MATTERS MUST ABSOLUTELY BE AVOIDED IN ANY CONTACTS BY EMBASSY WITH SOVIETS. FRENCH REP SAID PARIS WAS PARTICULARLY STRONG ON THIS POINT NOW WITH RETURN OF ABRASIMOV

TO EAST BERLIN WHO, IT COULD BE EXPECTED, MAY ATTEMPT TO
ENGAGE ALLIED EMBASSIES TO GDR ON THESE MATTERS. FRENCH
REP ADDED THAT ABRASIMOV HAD ALREADY SOUGHT AN APPOINT-
MENT WITH FRENCH AMBASSADOR, AND A CALL HAD BEEN AGREED
FOR MARCH 19.
HILLENBRAND

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